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Give blood at OU's fall drive

By **Mary E. Iorio**, OU Writer

Last year, Oakland University's Fall Blood Drive potentially saved more than 1,000 lives. It takes 15 minutes to give blood. Fifteen minutes to save three lives. On Oct. 14-16, university officials hope to attract at least 350 people to give blood and save lives through its Fall Blood Drive.

"We need faculty members to tell their classes," said Paul Franklin, coordinator of campus programs. "We need faculty and students to go. We need everyone to bring a friend."

In his 22 years at Oakland, Franklin has given blood at least two dozen times – enough to know that he walked away healthy and helped change lives. He doesn't take excuses well.

"If you aren't giving blood because you are scared of the needle, get over it and give blood. It's a pinch," he said. "Every pint of blood collected can save three lives. Would you put up with that pinch to save three lives? If you aren't giving blood because you're afraid you'll faint, take precautions. Eat first. Afterward, rest until you feel good. Choose a time slot that allows you to take your time. There's enough flexibility in the schedule to find a space that works for you."

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms. The Red Cross particularly needs Type O blood.

Reservations hold a time slot for would-be donors and help the Red Cross plan staffing, table set ups and supplies. There are three ways to register:

- Sign up at any of the donor tables in the Oakland Center.
- Sign up by calling the Center for Student Activities office at (248) 370-2400.
- Sign up on-line at **OU's Red Cross donor** site.

Those worried they may not meet the criteria to give blood, should sign up anyway.

"You fill out paperwork and nurses review it. They'll determine if you qualify," Franklin said. "Some people don't. You have to be in reasonably good health. You have to weigh at least 110 pounds. If you've traveled to certain countries recently, you can't give blood."

From start to finish, plan to spend about an hour with the Red Cross. In addition to the 15 minutes of actual blood-donation time, donors need time to fill out and review paperwork prior to the donation and need time to rest after the donation.

Last year, after the Sept. 11 crisis, Oakland saw a record 345 people give blood in three days. Franklin hopes to break that record this fall.

"If we get 350 people signed up, the Red Cross will bring enough staff and enough supplies for even more than that," he said.

The blood drive is supported by Sigma Phi and Theta Chi fraternities as well as the Student Nurses Association, Americorps and the Residence Hall Council. Franklin hopes organizations will challenge each other to increase turnout. If even 10 percent of dorm students gave blood, that would add up to 150 pints, he said.

"I just hope that people realize how serious this is," Franklin said. "You just never know when you will be on the receiving end."

SUMMARY

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